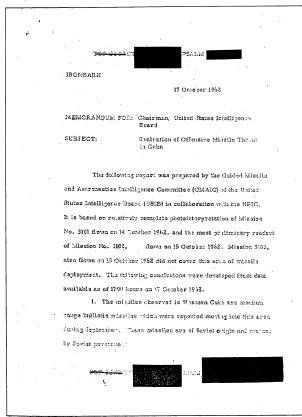
## 00489

1962/10/17

 Albert D. Wheelon, Memorandum for Chairman, United States Intelligence Board, "Evaluation of Offensive Missile Threat in Cuba," 17 October 1962





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2. At least some of the missiles observed in photography are 1020 an, \$35-4 missiles. Detailed photointerpretation shows that the missiles are convess covered, have blunt nonce, and are 66 feet, plus or minut two feet in length. This agrees vell with the length of the 55-4 missile tankage (64 feet) without its nose come, and in 415/arent from the tankage length (56 feet) of the 630 nm 85-3. However, there are lens certain length measurements which range from 55 to 68 feet on missiles in another area, so that one essuest rule out the possibility of a mixed force including seems 630 nm valuaties. The general missile lengths provided in the clandestine repower are compatible with either the SS-3 or-SS-4. The unitails measurements, sits configuration and ground support, equipment missigate against the SS-2 (350 nm), the SS-5 (2200 nm) and orders type missiles.

there is agreement that the last 630 nm missile was produced in 2x11 1959 and that the produced in 2x11 1959 and that the product surplus of these missiles over the sequended is between 10 and 80 missiles.





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On the other bavd, 1020 nm missiles are still being produced and there is probably a Soviet inventory of 650 to 850 such missiles. There have been as training firings of the 630 nm missile since October 1561, vénerous thirty 1020 nm missiles have been launched already this year (1562). Considering these aspects we believe the 630 nm missile program is relatively inactive and that the more modern 1020 per missile is more likely for this venture.

- The greater range capability of the 1020 nm missile produces significant US target coverage advantage over the 630 nm missile. (See figure)
- 5. There are now two confirmed MRBM launch sites in Western Cuba at Sen Diego St Los Banes and Los Palacios. A third site at San Cristokal is connected with this deployment and a third launch site. We cannot preclude the possibility that other sites will appear which would follow the usual Soviet practics of organizing two battalions ince a raissile regiment, which is the operating unit of strategic forces. However, such regiments usually include a technical superiturity, and the third site could be the location





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of this unit.

- 6. Proces are eight missiles and four launchers visible at the most advanced site (San Diego de Los Banos). It is probable that eight missiles will be deployed to each such site, apparently for a refire capability. The total force structure depends upon the interpretation of the third site and possibilities of a fourth site. The best current estimate is that at least 16 and possibly as many as 32 missiles will be operational in Cuba in the next week or so.
- 7. The ettes being deployed in Cuba are field type launchers which rely on mobile exection, checkout, and support equipment. The four-in-line deployment of launchers, at sites which are thousenives five miles apart is representative of MRBM deployment to the Soviet Union. None of the sites are revetted, but this feature could be added at any time.
- 8. We are having difficulty in distinguishing between the 630 and 1020 vin e stems on the basis of site characteristics, since neither and he ruled out on the basis of those physical measurements which have local made from the U-2 photography obtained to



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date. The problem results from resolution limitations of
satellite
photography and has precluded identification
of similar field type lunchers in the Soviet Union or European
satellites. From valid chancestine sources, we gather that the
1020 nm missile can be readily deployed to presurveyed alternate
sites in a matter of 6 hours glue transit time. The possibility
that launch sites can be relocated must not be overlocked.

- 9. There is significant change detectable in the sites between the two everilights one day apart. Fencing of two areas in evident on the opened day, and substantial progress is being made on creeking temporary buildings. Fifty vehicles (an increase of 15) and the practible appearance of erectors are noted at the third area.
- 10. The question of antiont operational capability with these sites depends critically on the type of missile being deployed. If we are correct in identifying these as 1020 nm missiles, with storable prepallants and self-contained (inertial) guidance, the first site could be available almost immediately for emergency use. (However, we do not see missile mose cones nor do we know of



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nuclear supply or storage. (See JAEIC Statement re nuclear weepons.)

11. If the 530 nm missile is being deployed, we would expect to find radio guidance squipment to the rear of the launchers and cryogenic generators to supply the liquid oxygen for this missile. Photographic search thus far has not revealed either type of equipment, although we cannot yet say that our search is exhaust (ve.)

42. The evidence favors the 1020 nm missile system, and indicates that this system will become operational in a matter of days.

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Chairman
Cuided Missile & Astronautics
Intelligence Committee

